REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated June 18, 2009, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. Claims 1-53 and 55 were previously pending in this application. Claims 1-4, 6, 8-10, 12, 13, 15, 19, 21, 22-24, 27-32, 34-35, 47 and 53 have been amended. As a result, claims 1-53 and 55 are pending for examination with claims 1, 27 and 53 being independent claims. No new matter has been added.

Interview Summary

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesy of a telephone interview conducted on September 1, 2009. Applicants were represented at the interview by Edmund J. Walsh (Reg. 32,950). Inventor George P. Moromisato also was present for the interview. During the interview, differences between the system described in Levine and the system described in the present application were discussed.

The Examiner indicated that claims reciting a change through the collaboration system on one computer affecting a file stored within the operating of another computer would overcome rejections based on the art of record.

The Amendments and remarks herein may serve as a further summary of the interview.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-53 and 55 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Levine, "Ten Minute guide to Groove 2.0" ("Levine"). Applicants respectfully disagree that the claims as amended are anticipated by Levine.

In the Response to Arguments section of the Office Action, the Examiner states: "Any changes made to the files in the shared space are also being made to the files in the fold-based file system because that is where they are stored" (page 9 of the Office Action). Applicants respectfully disagree that, in the system of Levine, that changes made with a file tool in the collaboration system also changed the corresponding file in the folder-based file system.

As described in more detail in response to the prior Office Action, Levine describes a prior art system in which a file is copied from a folder-based file system into a collaboration system. For example, Levine states that: "if people want to read or co-author a file, they can add

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a Files tool to a Groove shared space...." (Levine page 1, The Groove Difference). Levine

further states "You can open any file stored in the Files tool..." (Levine, Lesson 17). Reading

these passages together, it is clear that the files shared in the system described by Levine are

copied into the shared space of the collaboration system. The shared space relates to the copy of

the data maintained by the collaboration system on each client computer in the collaboration

session. The text of Levine makes clear that, in the system of Levine, the File tool, and the data

from the files themselves, are within the shared space. Accordingly, changes to the file made

through the collaboration system are made to the data copied into the shared space of the

collaboration system – not to the files in the folder-based file system.

In contrast, the present application describes interfaces between the collaboration system

and the operating system that allow a file maintained by the operating system to be shared

through the collaboration system. There are both structural and operational differences between

the approach described in the present application and that described in Levine.

These differences are reflected in each of the independent claims, as detailed below.

Independent Claim 1

Claim 1 recites limitations not met by Levine. For example, claim 1 recites: "within the

operating system, ... providing a notification of a determined changed to the collaboration

system." No such notification occurred in the system of Levine because the collaboration system

communicated changes based on its copy of the file – not a file kept by the folder based file system

of the operation system.

The claim also recites: "in response to the notification of the determined change,

determining, within the collaboration system, whether the change relates to the at least one

synchronized file." In the system of Levine, changes were made to data copied into the

collaboration system, and there was no need for the collaboration system to determine whether

changes within the folder-based file system related to a synchronized file.

Moreover, claim 1 recites:

(f)   receiving at the first computer a second data change message formatted in

accordance with the data change format of the collaboration system, the second

data change message communicating a change made to the synchronized file by a

user of a second computer; and

(g)   changing the synchronized file within the operating system on the first computer
        based on the second data change message

No such "changing" to a synchronized file within an operating system occurs in the sytem
of Levine, which copies the file into the shared space. Thus, at least these limitations of claim 1
are not met by Levine.

As a further distinguishing point, claim 1 recites that the collaborative interface is included
in an operating system user interface. The claim further recites: "receiving, from the collaboration
system, information regarding the members collaborating within the context of a shared folder
containing the synchronized file through the use of the collaboration system and using the
collaborative interface to display the information." Again, because the data of the shared files and
File tool of Levine were within the shared space maintained by the collaboration system, these
claimed interactions did not occur.

Thus, for multiple reasons, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the cited reference and
should be allowed.

Independent Claim 27

For reasons that should be apparent from the discussion of Levine, above, claim 27 recites
limitations that are not met by the reference. For example, claim 27 recites:

> "a file synchronizer that receives a notification from the operating
> system of a change made in the folder-based file system; and
> a document share engine within the collaboration system on the first
> computer that:
>> communicates the change to the plurality of members of the
> collaboration system;
>> receives changes to the synchronized file from at least one of
> the plurality of members accessing the collaboration system on a
> second computer; and
>> applies the received change to a file in the folder-based file
> system on the first computer"

Because the system of Levine maintains that information from a file to be shared within the shared space of the collaboration system, it is clear that Levine does not describe a file synchronizer. Moreover, Levine does not describe a system with a document share engine that applies received changes to a file synchronizer for applying the change to a file in the folder based filed system.

Thus, for multiple reasons, claim 27 patentably distinguishes over the cited reference and should be allowed.

Independent Claim 53

For reasons that should be apparent from the discussion of Levine, above, claim 53 recites limitations that are not met by the reference. For example, claim 53 recites:

> "program code within the collaboration system for receiving from the operating system on a first computer an event notification indicating a change within the folder-based file system;
>
> program code within the collaboration system for determining whether the change made in the folder-based file system relates to the at least one shared folder, the program code for determining comprises program code for maintaining a snapshot of at least one file in the shared folder;
>
> program code for communicating the change to other members via the collaboration system;
>
> program code for receiving an indication of a second change relating to the at least one shared folder from a member of the other members of the collaboration system accessing the collaboration system from a second computer; and
>
> program code for applying the second change to the folder-based file system on the first computer, whereby the shared folder is synchronized among the members of the collaboration system.

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For reasons that should be apparent from the discussion of Levine, above, the system of Levine that copies a file into the shared space of the collaboration system does not meet at least these limitations of claim 53.

Thus, for multiple reasons, claim 53 patentably distinguishes over the cited references and should be allowed.

General Comments on the Dependent Claims

The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly from one of the independent claims and distinguish the cited references for at least the same reasons.

Applicants believe that it is unnecessary at this time to argue the allowability of each of the dependent claims individually. Applicants do not, however, necessarily concur with the interpretation of the dependent claims as set forth in the Office Action, nor do Applicants concur that the basis for the rejection of any of the dependent claims is proper. Therefore, Applicants reserve the right to specifically address the patentability of the dependent claims in the future, if deemed necessary.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 14-18 and 40-44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Levine in view of Therrien et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0088382.

Claims 20 and 46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Levine in view of Oprescu-Surcobe, U.S. Patent No. 6,356,961 ("Oprescu-Surcobe").

Each of these rejections depends on Levine meeting all of the limitations of one of the independent claims. For reasons detailed above, Levine does not meet all limitations of any of the independent claims. Therrien and Oprescu-Surcobe are not cited as curing the deficiencies of Levine. Thus, these rejections also should be withdrawn.
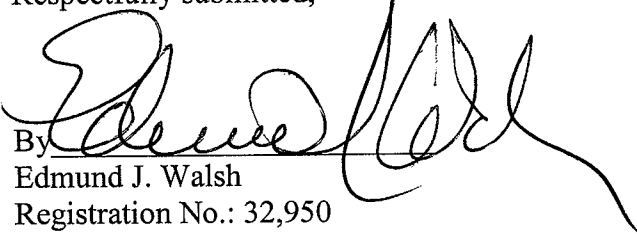
CONCLUSION

If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 23/2825 referencing docket no. M1103.70267US00.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 23/2825 under Docket No. M1103.70267US00 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: Sept 16, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

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